

HEALTH  
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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
WESTHOUGHTON.

November 1943.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
Market Street,  
WESTHOUGHTON.

November 1943.

To the Chairman and  
Members of the Health Committee.

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the Health of the District for the year 1942.

Up to the end of November Dr. E. Taylor held office as Medical Officer of Health. The work relative to that period is, in the main, the basis of this report.

It follows similar lines to those of the immediately previous years, in conformity with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM H. LEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA OF THE DISTRICT - 5,560 acres.  
CENSUS POPULATION, 1931 - 16,018  
ESTIMATED POPULATION 1941 - 14,290.  
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF YEAR - 4,448.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	228	120	108	
	Illegitimate	3	3	-	
	Total	231	123	108	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1942
Stillbirths		16	10	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Deaths		157	96	71	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population

16.32

65

11.09

Deaths from puerperal causes.

Deaths. Death-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.

Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	30
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all Ages)	23
Deaths from Measles " "	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all Ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

Population for Birth-rate & Death-rate - 14,150

Per 1,000 of estimated population.

	Live Birthrate	Crude Deathrate	Deathrate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Deathrate from Cancer	Rate of deaths under one yr. per 1,000 live Births
Mean of 5 yrs. 1937 - 1941	14.2	12.8	0.50	1.32	56.6
1941	14.9	12.03	0.14	1.12	74
1942	16.3	11.09	0.21	1.62	30
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 5 yrs' average 1937 - 1941	+2.1	-1.71	-0.29	+0.30	-26.6
Previous year	+1.4	-0.94	+0.07	+0.5	-44

Maternal Mortality Rate

Per 1,000 total (live & Still) Births.

Mean of 5 years 1937 - 1941	3.51
1941	Nil
1942	Nil
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 5 years' average 1937 - 1941	-3.51
Previous year	Nil

WATER SUPPLY. The water from the Bolton supply was maintained in a satisfactory manner.

DRAINAGE. There have been no important extensions or alterations in the general scheme.

HOUSING. Number of New Houses erected during the Year:-

- (i) By the Local Authority
- (ii) By other bodies or persons
- Nil
- Nil

Sanitary Inspections (including housing) totalled 2,640 and 261 defects or nuisances were abated out of the 332 discovered.

FOOD INSPECTION. This work has been carried out continuously during the year - particular attention has been given to milk supplies - 332 samples were taken, 172 being submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. In 10 cases a positive result was returned and these cases were investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officer, who took the necessary action on discovering the diseased animal.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The Ambulance Service continued to function satisfactorily. Arrangements were the same as in previous years.

A total of 260 journeys were made as follows:-

Bolton	Wigan	Leigh	Manchester	Miscellaneous	Total
221	19	2	2	16	260



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria. During the year there were notified 24 cases of this disease as compared with 12 last year and a 5 years' average of 33. All the cases were removed to hospital. There was one death.

Scarlet Fever. There were 69 cases notified and 60 of these were removed to hospital. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough and Measles. There is no evidence of abnormal prevalence during the year, though it is doubtful if these diseases are efficiently notified. There were no deaths.

Immunisation. This scheme was again operated with marked success. Every attempt was made to bring the importance of this treatment to the notice of parents.

Fortnightly sessions were held at the School Clinic and the various schools were visited.

During the year a total of 318 children were treated:-

<u>Under School Age.</u>	<u>5 yrs. and over but under 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
200	118	318

Percentage of child population immunised at end of 1942:-

Under 5 years	...	43.5%
5 to 15 years	...	63.6%

Scabies. The district is still without means for the adequate treatment of this affection. Fortunately no serious outbreak was reported. A number of cases were discovered in school children and these were given treatment at the School Clinic.

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of death during the year 1942.

Registrar General's Return.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES	FEMALES
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-
Influenza	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	-	3
Other Tuberculosis	3	-
Cancer	13	10
Diabetes	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	12	3
Heart Disease	23	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	4
Bronchitis	2	3
Pneumonia	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	-
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-
Other Liver Diseases	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	1	-
Nephritis	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Chronic Debility, Premature Birth etc.	3	-
Suicide	1	-
Other Violence & Road Traffic Accidents	7	2
Other defined diseases	14	13
	96	71

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1942.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			3				2	
5				1				
10			1	1				
15				1				
20			1			1		
25	1	1		1				
35	1							
45			1			2	1	
55		1						
65 and upwards								
	2	2	6	4		3	3	
	4		10		3		3	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1942. (Notified cases only).

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED														Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital			
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1	1 to 20																
			1 to 1	2 to 2	3 to 3	4 to 4	5 to 5	6 to 6	7 to 7	8 to 8	9 to 9	10 to 10	15 to 15	20 to 20			35 to 35	45 to 45	65 and over
Smallpox																			
Scarlet Fever	69		3	6	8	28	18	4	2									60	
Diphtheria	24		1	2	2	4	5	6	3	1							1	24	
Para-Typhoid																			
Measles	55	3	3	3	5	16	24	1											
Whooping Cough	5					2	3												
Pneumonia	5								1	1						1	2	8	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1										
Cerebro-spinal Fever																			
Acute Poliomyelitis																			
Encephalitis Lethargica																			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																			
Erysipelas	2								1								1		
Total	161	3	3	7	13	28	59	23	13	7	1		1	3	1	1	3	9	84

